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conclude

a means for affecting a relative motion between said plurality of blades and [an associated] the elongated food item whereby at least a portion of the elongated food item is sliced within said interior.

**Remarks:**

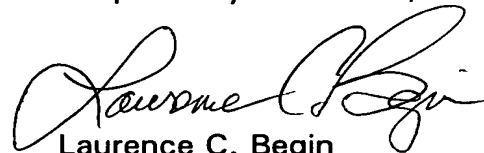
Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, and 13-17 in view of the examiner's comments. Antecedent basis for the amendments is found in the drawings, for example.

Relative to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102, Applicant notes that none of the references now respond to the limitations of the amended claims. Applicant therefore respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C 102(b), for Priore in particular is not concerned with the cutting and simultaneous support of an elongated food product within an elongated hollow body as now claimed.

Relative to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103, Applicant notes that Berler does not resolve the deficiencies of Priore, for neither Berler nor Priore respond to a device or to a method of cutting involving an elongated food item supported by an elongated hollow body. Stated another way, the limitations of the claims are neither described or suggested either alone or in combination with any of the references, and therefore a prima facie case of obviousness is simply not supported. In essence, the problem of supporting an elongated food item while cutting the food item is not discussed in the prior art, and therefore a solution to this problem is simply not described or suggested. Note for example, that Priore describes cutting of a pie, certainly not an elongated food item. Also note that Berler is not concerned with supporting an elongated food item because the food item to be processed is generally rigid and may be biased against the blades while remaining rigid. Accordingly, the hollow body of Berler is not elongated as in the present invention. See the Figures.

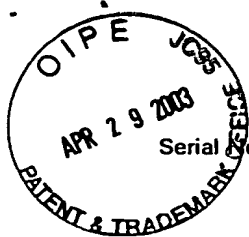
Accordingly, the allowance of claims 1-17 and passage of the subject application to issue is courteously solicited. Applicant has not calculated a fee to be due in connection with this paper. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayments or charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 04-1131. If the Applicants may be of any further assistance in the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (248) 364-2100.

Respectfully submitted,



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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Atty Docket No. SUE-001-US

MARKED UP AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (twice amended) A food utensil comprising:

[a] an elongated hollow body for supporting an elongated food product,  
said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall  
forming an interior, an open first end and a second end; and

a plurality of blades extending across said interior in a plane perpendicular  
to said inner and outer walls for cutting a food item.

11. (twice amended) A food utensil comprising:

[a] an elongated hollow body for encasing an elongated food product, said  
elongated hollow body having an inner wall forming an interior and  
an outer wall, an open first end and a closed second end, and, a  
plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end  
to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end;

a plurality of blades extending across said interior; and

a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said  
plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades  
correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves.

13. (amended) An appliance comprising:

[a] an elongated hollow body for supporting an elongated food product,  
said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall  
forming an interior;

a plurality of blades fixed within said interior and extending across said  
interior; and

a receptacle for holding an item to be sliced, that upon appliance operation is slidably engaged along said outer wall thereby forcing said item against said blades for slicing thereof.

12. (amended) A method of slicing a food item comprising:  
providing a fixed plurality of blades within [a] an elongated hollow body and across a diameter thereof;  
inserting [a] an elongated food item to be sliced in a receptacle, said elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body; and  
slidably engaging the receptacle along an outer circumference of the hollow body to bias the item against and at least partially through the blades thereby slicing the item.
13. (amended) A method of slicing a food item comprising:  
placing [a] an elongated [cylindrical] food item within [a] an elongated hollow body of an appliance along [the] a length of the hollow body, said elongated food item supported by said elongated hollow body;  
providing a plurality of blades within the hollow body and across a diameter thereof; and  
sliding the blades along the length of the hollow body thereby slicing at least a portion of the cylindrical food item.
14. (amended) A method of slicing [a] an elongated food item comprising:  
providing a plurality of blades within [a] an elongated hollow body and across a cross-section thereof; and  
affecting a relative motion between the elongated food item and the plurality of blades thereby slicing at least a portion of the food item and yet supporting the elongated food item within the elongated hollow body.

17. (amended) A food slicer comprising:

[a] an elongated hollow body for slicing an elongated food item, said elongated hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall, said walls defining an elongated interior that supports the elongated food item;

a plurality of blades within said elongated hollow body and extending across a cross-section thereof; and

a means for affecting a relative motion between said plurality of blades and [an associated] the elongated food item whereby at least a portion of the elongated food item is sliced within said interior.